

LEMHI PASS TIMBER SALE

August 21, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Dillon Unit (CLO) – Approximately 19 air miles west of Grant, Montana.
- Beaverhead County – Section 16, T10S-R15W
- 100% Common Schools Trust

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 2,345 tons (350 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$47,006.00.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$1.25/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.7 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains 5 harvest units totaling 48 acres.
- The site currently has suppressed growth due to overstocking with infestations of dwarf mistletoe and mountain pine beetle in the lodgepole pine and bark beetle in the Douglas-fir.
- Harvest prescriptions would favor the retention of larger healthy trees. Smaller trees would be harvested, although a mix of size classes would be retained. Trees showing insect and/or disease attack would be harvested. Douglas-fir would have the highest retention priority, followed by lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce. Sub-merchantable trees would be protected where possible.
- Old growth restoration treatments would be applied on approximately 7 acres of the sale area which would still meet the old growth definition (Green et al) post-harvest. No other old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% tractor

Road Construction/Reconstruction:

- Access to the sale is across existing roads. Approximately 0.2 miles of temporary, minimum standard new spur road construction and 500 feet of minor road reconstruction would be required. All new and reconstruction work would meet current BMP standards. All disturbed soils would be grass seeded. Upon completion of the sale, the new road construction would be physically closed.

Public Involvement:

- Public involvement was solicited through legal publications in the Dillon Tribune and the Montana Standard. Letters were also sent to individuals and interested parties. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies identified the issues that were analyzed. The main issues identified were big game habitat, wildlife corridors/fragmentation, increased ATV traffic, and aesthetics. Comments were received from Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Dept., Montana Audubon Council, American Wildlands and adjacent landowner Mr. Ed Mooney.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- **Big Game Habitat** – Harvest prescriptions and unit size were designed to minimize impacts to big game. The proposed new road construction would have minimal impact on habitat or increases in human activity as it would be physically

- obstructed and effectively closed upon project completion. Entry through main access route is also limited due to private ownership.
- **Wildlife Corridors/Fragmentation** – There would be no human development that would decrease linkage value and the proposed management activities would not impede wildlife movements across the landscape.
 - **Increased ATV Traffic** – To limit increased ATV traffic, all new construction and skid trails would be physically closed with slash and debris. Entry through main access route is also limited due to private ownership.
 - **Aesthetics** – The proposed project area is not visible to any populated area. The gentle topography and the harvest design/prescriptions would limit changes in the overall aesthetics of the area.

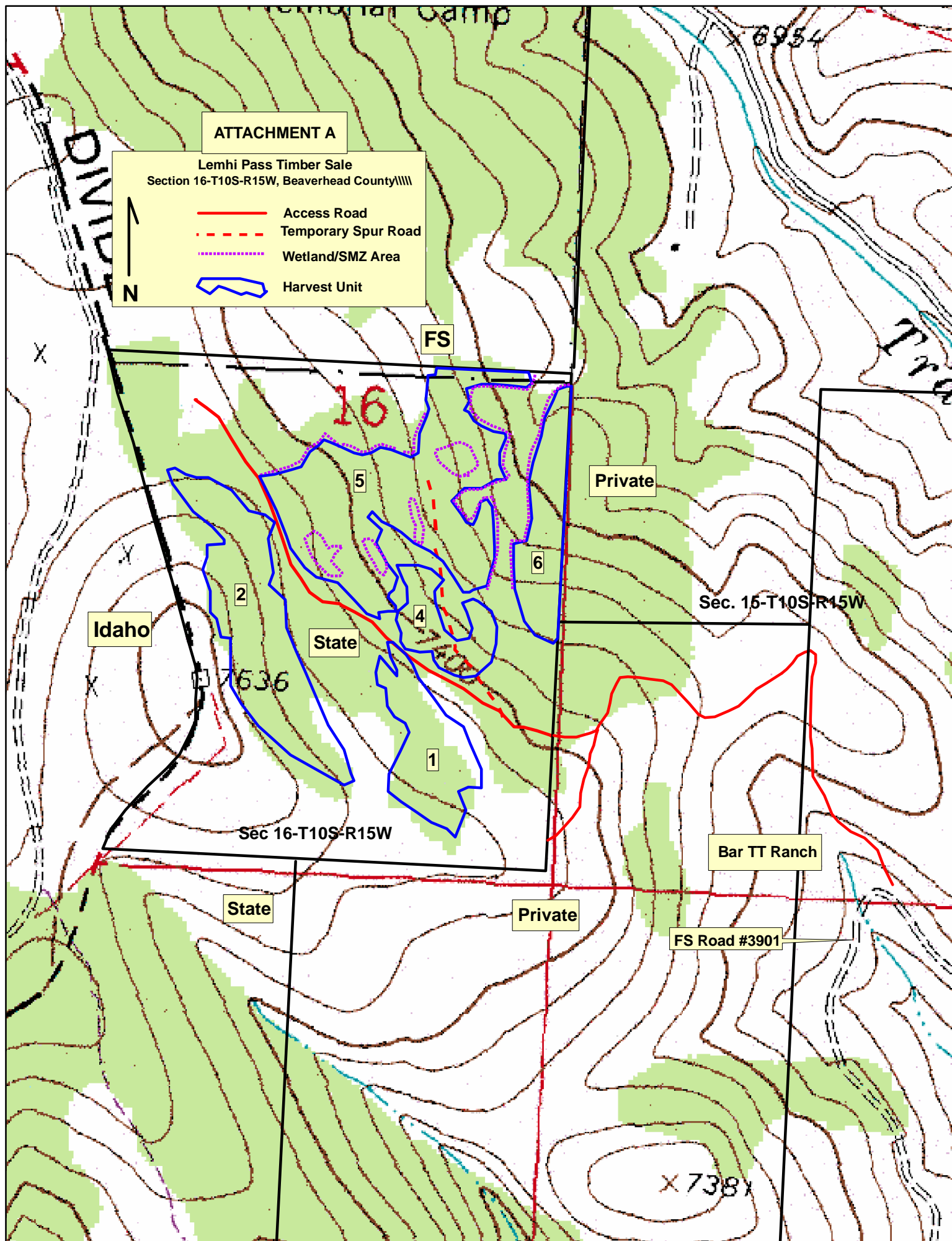
The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Lemhi Pass Timber Sale.

ATTACHMENT A

Lemhi Pass Timber Sale
Section 16-T10S-R15W, Beaverhead County, MT



- Access Road
- Temporary Spur Road
- Wetland/SMZ Area
- Harvest Unit



ATTACHMENT A

Lemhi Pass Timber Sale
Section 16-T10S-R15W, Beaverhead County, ID



Project Area

Project Area

